



First Nations Health
Directors Association

Sharing experience for community wellness

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Frequently asked questions: How does the Association work?

1. **Why is the contribution of Health Directors so important, valuable and necessary to our organization?**
 - A few years ago, several First Nations Health Directors began the journey towards creating their own professional association. Health Directors are in touch with the health needs of their communities, which puts them in a strong position to plan, coordinate and manage services (and inform services of other health providers) for their communities and to provide necessary technical advice in community, at regional meetings, provincial forums, and for our Association and partners. Health Directors have an integral role in transforming health programs and services to better meet the needs of First Nations citizens across BC.

2. **How can I stay informed about the activities of the FNHDA Board and Secretariat throughout the year?**
 - We regularly share information about Board activities through FNHDA Board Summaries which provide an overview of discussions and decisions of the Board of Directors. These summaries are currently distributed by email through the Regional Health Liaisons. More general information is also available on the FNHDA website, Facebook and Twitter page, as well as our bi-monthly and special edition e-blast newsletters.
 - To enhance member communications, we are currently developing an FNHDA Member Portal, which will be an exclusive Members-only information site. This site will be a safe and secure clearing house for information and discussion including Board meeting summaries, meeting agendas, committee summaries/reports, webinar and training materials, and more. We look forward to sharing this communication tool with our members this June.

3. **How do the various FNHDA Meeting Agendas' get developed and what is the process?**
 - FNHDA meeting agendas are developed by the FNHDA board in accordance with our *FNHDA Meeting Policy, Procedure and Process* adopted on September 12, 2013: *"The FNHDA has appointed a President and Vice-President responsible for managing FNHDA meetings, providing leadership to effective FNHDA meetings, and ensuring on-going progress between FNHDA meetings."* In terms of process: *"The FNHDA requires an agenda for each meeting that clearly supports the FNHDA to advance its ambitious mandate in a cost and time-effective manner. Agendas must be action-oriented, facilitate decision-making, and be demonstrably relevant to the mandate of the FNHDA... Agendas will be focused on action-oriented internal discussions, with*

presentations from internal or external staff and partners as necessary to support these internal discussions...The FNHDA Secretariat is responsible for developing FNHDA meeting agendas in collaboration with the FNHDA President and Vice-President, based on the mandate and priorities of the FNHDA, including soliciting participation from various departments within the FNHA as required."

- FNHDA members ("at large") are encouraged to reach out to their respective FNHDA Regional Representatives to raise agenda items for discussion and/or in accordance with standard meeting procedures put forward recommended Agenda items at the meetings themselves.

4. How can I provide the FNHDA with feedback to suggest improvement and ideas?

- You are always welcome to reach out to your FNHDA Regional Representatives or the FNHDA directly, at any time. Periodically, we distribute evaluation surveys to request feedback from our members about their preferences related to AGM and meetings.

FNHDA Communication Processes

Engagement between the FNHDA and its partners has begun, and the FNHDA would like to explain how engagement occurs and our communication process.

5. In our role as technical advisors to our partners, how do we contribute to transformation?

- The FNHDA have been developing a communication and engagement process, called the FNHDA Technical Advice Process (TAP), which will help coordinate the Health Directors voice on local, regional and provincial matters. The draft TAP was presented during engagement sessions held during 2013. The Association is now refining TAP based on member's feedback to ensure it meets both our members and partners objectives; our processes are always evolving to reflect current developments.

6. What can I do if my concern is local or community-based, and a Health Director matter?

- For local or community-based matters, Health Directors can reach out to one of the three Regional Director, local FNHDA Regional Representative or the relevant department with the First Nations Health Authority, at any time.

7. What can I do if my concern seems more on a regional level that is a FNHDA related matter?

- If you wish to bring forward a matter that you believe is an issue for other Health Directors within your region (and not a FNHA specific or Regional Office matter), please bring the issue and, where possible, recommended solution to the regional FNHDA sessions. Once agreed to by the majority of your regional cohorts to bring an issue forward to the provincial FNHDA Board table, then the

region can direct the three regional FNHDA Board representatives (who were elected to support you and your colleagues within your region) to bring the matter to the provincial FNHDA Board table. Should the regional Health Directors determine that the matter remains within the region, the issues can be directed through your regional FNHDA Board Representatives to raise it within the regional table structure.

8. With a shift to regionalization of First Nations health governance work, what is the FNHDA doing to support Health Directors in this evolving process?

- FNHDA can assist in this area by continuing to support Health Directors in establishing regional structures to help guide our members' work in the new First Nations governance arrangement. During the 2013 summer regional sessions, Health Directors discussed their regional terms of reference, including processes about communication and selecting regional FNHDA Board representatives. The Association will also continue working with the FNHA Regional Offices with the goal of establishing more health director-led regional meetings that reflect your regional perspectives and priorities; please note this is an evolving process.

9. How does collaboration occur amongst the three partners: the First Nations Health Directors Association, the First Nations Health Council, and the First Nations Health Authority?

- Collaboration and relationships between the three governing families is guided by the 2012 [Relationship Agreement](#). Additionally there are many practical ways that collaboration occurs amongst the three partners (FNHDA, FNHC and FNHA) - one example is the joint strategic planning process. The purpose of the joint strategic planning session was to develop common understandings about each organization's role and strategic focus. The sessions help to define the core components and agreed-upon goals for shared strategy amongst the three organizations and assist each organization in further defining their respective themes and priority areas for their own strategic plans moving forward.

10. Is this an evolving, developing and ever-changing process?

- What we have learned from other indigenous people around the world is that we are very early in our process, but in many cases miles ahead. The FNHDA, FNHC and FNHA have are committed to learning from our indigenous brothers and sisters in order to replicate their success but avoid the mistakes and pitfalls of the journey.
- We are still very much in the Transition Phase of the work. What is critical at this juncture of the journey is that we all pull our weight and play our role. We need to be patient with one another and allow ourselves to make mistakes as we build this road (*while driving the bus – at the same time*). We need to pool our shared strategies, innovative ideas and creative options, to influence and change the provincial health system to better meet the needs of BC First Nations. While we recognize it is not a task that can be achieved overnight, with our collective ideas and together as partners we will help to transform systems.

11. How can I provide suggestions or comments about ways to improve our members' experiences and services?

- We always welcome your suggestions on how we can make this Association better and stronger by emailing us directly at info@fnhda.ca or telephone (604) 693-6500